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**PROJECT IMPACT
TODAY**

A bi-monthly newsletter
published by FEMA Region
10 to share information,
leverage resources, and
capitalize on proven
successes for building
Project Impact disaster-
resistant communities.

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PROJECT IMPACT TODAY

BUILDING DISASTER RESISTANT COMMUNITIES ONE STEP AT A TIME

Skagit River Floodplain Yields Parkland



FEMA Regional Director David L. de Courcy (L) and Mount Vernon Mayor Skye K. Richendrfer unveil signage for the newly expanded Edgewater Park.

The City of Mount Vernon unveiled new signage and additional parkland on Tuesday, October 5, 1999 at Edgewater Park. Made possible by over \$2.3 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds from the 1995/96 Presidential flood disasters, the project converts 34 properties from residential and business use to open space parkland. According to Mt. Vernon Mayor Skye K. Richendrfer, the project is the result of a winning partnership between the City, FEMA, and State of Washington departments of Emergency Management, Community Trade & Economic Development, and Natural Resources.

"We've acquired 34 flood-prone properties, and demolished the structures to create open space use in perpetuity," said Mayor Richendrfer. "This represents more than an expansion of Edgewater Park. It represents homes that will never be flooded again, businesses out of harm's way, and provides our citizens with an additional weapon in our flood-reduction arsenal. This project represents the benefits the public receives when different agencies and levels of government work together toward a common goal."

The Floodway Acquisition Project combines two HMGP projects, with FEMA providing 75 percent, or \$1.7 million. Washington State and local sources will share the remainder of the costs.

For more information, call Mayor Richendrfer, (360) 336-6211.

"This parkland represents homes that will never be flooded again, businesses out of harm's way, and provides our citizens with an additional weapon in our flood-reduction arsenal."

*—Mayor Skye
Richendrfer*



Summit99
DEC 12-16

Communities to Convene in Washington, D.C.

The 1999 Project Impact Summit will be held December 12-16, 1999, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. The 1999 Summit will provide opportunities for Project Impact communities and their partners to learn from each other's successes and work together to explore new avenues for Building Disaster Resistant Communities.

Summit registration and schedule information has been mailed out to communities over the last few weeks. You may also obtain updated information about the summit, or register for the Summit by visiting www.fema.gov/impact/summit99 on the internet.

From Regional Director David L. de Courcy

Project Impact Summit '99: Building Disaster Resistant and Livable Communities



This year's *Project Impact* Summit 99 is scheduled in Washington D.C. December 12-16, and will showcase that

commitment to pre-disaster mitigation planning which threatens to make Y2K a non-event for millions of Americans. Here in Region 10 we've completed signing ceremonies for all but one of our 1999 communities - and I'm proud to announce our four newest, Year 2000 communities: Matanuska-Susitna Borough in Alaska, Blaine County in Idaho, Deschutes County in Oregon, and Kitsap County in Washington state. Without taking anything away from our local partners that make *Project Impact* work, I believe that the enthusiasm and commit-

ment that community leaders gained from Summit '98 helped sustain their momentum through the stakeholder partnership process. This year's Summit offers even more - and will benefit "experienced hands" and "new-comers" alike!

Project Impact Summit '99 begins Sunday, December 12 with "early bird" workshops at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, allowing attendees to take advantage of "over-Saturday" airfares. If you liked last year's "flagship" Summit, you'll love this year's poignant and practical hands-on tips, showcasing the best from over 180 *Project Impact* communities. A special Partners Tradeshow on Wednesday, December 15, will highlight the contributions of business and corporate partners with over 100 booths covering 16,000 exhibit square feet.

I look forward to seeing old friends and new partners as we meet to network innovative solutions, gather knowledge, and market concepts that will make our neighborhoods safer places to live, work and thrive. See you there!

David L. de Courcy
Director, FEMA Region 10

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Disaster Saturday Attracts Crowds

Over 900 people crowded into the workshops and exhibit hall at the City of Seattle's 7th Disaster Saturday held on October 2, 1999 at Seattle Central Community College. Disaster Saturday is a free community forum co-sponsored by Seattle Project Impact and SDART (Seattle Disaster Aid and Response Teams).

Mayor Paul Schell welcomed attendees to the plenary session where Seattle Project Impact recognized two outstanding partners for their contributions: Phinney Neighborhood Association and the City of Seattle Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU). Both partners have been instrumental in the development of the training and standards for Seattle's nationally recognized earthquake Home Retrofit Program. Washington Mutual and Bank of America originally received these National Project Impact Award trophies at the 1998 Project Impact Summit. They, in turn, generously donated their awards to Seattle Project Impact to acknowledge and reward other organizations for their efforts.

It was standing room only in the workshops, which included Earthquake Home Retrofit Training, Securing Home Contents for Earthquake Damage, Y2K Neighborhood Preparedness, Light Search and Rescue, Small Business Mitigation, and Regional Hazards. Attendees also viewed videos and exhibits about Seattle Project Impact, SDART, Seattle Public Schools, Phinney homeowner retrofit classes, DCLU, trained retrofit contractors, and many other Project Impact partners and supporters. A highlight was the earthquake and landslide hazards area filled with maps, photos, samples, animated demonstrations, and experts available to answer questions. Through Disaster Saturday, another 900 residents of Seattle left motivated and educated to take action to reduce their vulnerability. For more information call (206) 615-0288.



Roger Faris (L) and Ed Medeiros of the Phinney Neighborhood Association receive the City of Seattle Outstanding Partner Award from Bank of America's Robin Finley.

Director of Oregon Emergency Management Myra Thompson Lee

OREGON - A State of Disaster Resilience

Oregon Emergency Management is taking the next step to make Oregon a disaster resistant state. On October 19, 1999, OEM met with state agency heads to discuss the possibilities of a coordinated effort at the agency director level to manage the efforts and focus the resources of seventeen state agencies that on a day-to-day basis effect almost every community and county in Oregon.

Currently Oregon is moving along with many projects and developments through the Governor's Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (GIHMT). The Mission of this team is to create a disaster resistant state by reducing the threat of natural hazards to life, property, emergency response capabilities, and infrastructure while encouraging the protection of natural resources and the environment.

As the Director of Oregon Emergency Management, one of my most important goals is to combine efforts of these agencies using the Project Impact principles with the goal of having a disaster resistant state. I truly believe that we (state agencies)

must create a partnership and honestly look at our priorities and goals to recognize common needs for communities and how these needs can be met by a coordinated state solutions team with the goal of creating a disaster resistant and resilient state.

We must look at many elements that affect state agencies and the state's communities. It is also important that the Governor and legislative body understand and see the value of this process to improve the state. We will also introduce this process into Oregon's benchmark strategy, which addresses the economic, social, cultural, environmental and other needs and aspirations of the people of Oregon.

Myra Thompson Lee

Director, Oregon Emergency Management



Washington State Offers Y2K Video Series – Unique Consumer Information Source



The first three, in a series of four Y2K informational video tapes, narrated by Seattle television journalist Barry Mitzman, are now available through over 300 Washington libraries, and 25 local-access cable TV channels.

According to Julie Boyer, of the Washington State Year 2000 Office, the video tapes are being produced in response to requests from community leaders during a series of workshops held this last spring.

"We held nine workshops around the state from April to June, and community leaders repeatedly requested Y2K information products that their residents could access in their own homes," said Boyer. "These will provide substantive information and visual demonstrations of Washington-specific Y2K consumer information."

To view copies contact the Washington State Year 2000 Office at (360) 586-4204. Detailed information on state government readiness and Y2K technology issues (Year 2000 and You) is available on the World Wide Web: HYPERLINK <http://access.wa.gov/2000/> <http://access.wa.gov/2000/>.

Working Groups Formed in Kenai, Alaska

Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska, has organized their Project Impact partnership to implement their disaster resistant goals. On September 14, 1999, the City of Kenai welcomed over 80 attendees to the working groups formation meeting.

Four working groups were established: Wildfire, Earthquake/Tsunami/Volcano, Floods, and General Mitigation. Within each working group, the participants reviewed the community's past accomplishments and began to develop action plans for future accomplishments. A common theme in the working groups was the need for a communication plan and public information to support both preparedness and damage prevention activities.

Additionally, Kenai's partnership was strengthened with the addition of ten new partners: Homer News, Kenai Peninsula Emergency Medical Services Council, Freedom Realty, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, Kenai Chrysler Center, American Red Cross and Alaska Farming Ventures. For information call Kathleen Scott, (907) 283-6714.

Kamiah Celebrates Community Commitment

Kamiah, Idaho's Project Impact Partnership Signing Ceremony brought together concerned citizens, businesses and community organizations on September 29, 1999 to celebrate their vision for a disaster resistant community. An afternoon tour of the Lawyer Creek Floodplain was led by Dr. James H. Milligan of the University of Idaho. The tour emphasized the long term, watershed wide approach the community will be undertaking to reduce flood damages.



Kamiah partnership challenges include Lawyer Creek sediment and debris deposits, degraded channel integrity, and inadequate catch basins.

The tour emphasized the long term, watershed wide approach the community will be undertaking to reduce flood damages.

The Project Impact partners then gathered at Kamiah School's multipurpose room for a dinner and signing ceremony. The partners were impressed with a special cake that

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Focus on Small Businesses

On September 28, 1999, the Seattle Federal Executive Board (SFEB) Associates Program hosted a Small Business Damage Prevention Focus Group in Renton, Washington. The group was asked to explore ways to motivate small businesses to apply pre-disaster damage prevention measures. The group was composed of small business owners, chamber of commerce leaders, city managers, universities, and emergency managers. Participants were invited based on each person's valuable experience with the business community or emergency management.

The theme of the meeting was, "Business Knows What Business Needs." Participants were asked to identify the issues that are most



important for reaching small businesses. The format of the Focus Group allowed participants to set the agenda, drive the process, and determine how the damage prevention message can best be conveyed to small business.

The SFEB Associates will compile the focus group discussion notes into a resource product that can be used by chambers of commerce, Project Impact communities, and other organizations working with small businesses. "The goal of our efforts should not be to frighten small businesses with everything bad that could happen, but instead find ways that we can empower them to take actions," says Lynn Oliver, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for City of Kirkland, Washington.

Universities Tackle Small Business Mitigation

The Pierce and King Counties Project Impact effort is partnering with four western Washington universities and four distinct small business communities to build disaster resistant small businesses. Each university is partnering with a designated community to develop an approach to small business mitigation. Each university/business community combination is developing their own unique approach based on a three level process.

The program essentially has three components. First, identify a business liaison who can build partnerships to form a business alliance in each community. Second, develop a mitigation education program for small businesses. Third, develop a business mentoring program. The resulting programs protect everyone's interests and increase the likelihood of business continuity following a disaster.

The four approaches vary based on composition of the business community and the resources available at the university. The community of Parkland is working with Pacific Lutheran University's Young Entrepreneurs Club and Center for Public Service, a volunteer club. Seattle Pacific University is teaming with the city of Kirkland's Leadership Institute. At the University Puget Sound a group of twelve students enrolled in the course, Environmental Catastrophes, have formed six teams of two to work with the City of

Puyallup, the Eastern Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, and the Puyallup Main Street Association on outreach to small businesses. Seattle University and the city of Renton are organizing a lunchtime seminar for small business owners. The seminar will include hazard exhibits and other related booths. Students will follow up with businesses that express interest.

All of the students participating through the four universities will receive training about hazard mitigation, using new and existing resources from FEMA, the State, or through private contractors. The first two programs were started in October, while the other two programs begin in November. For additional information, contact Claudia Ellsworth at Pierce and King County Project Impact (253) 798-7428.

Pacific NW Communities Receive Rate Reductions

Property owners in selected communities in Oregon, Idaho and Washington State are paying less for flood insurance, as of October 1, 1999. That's thanks to special efforts by Northwest communities participating in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS).

The CRS rewards communities that voluntarily take steps to reduce the risk of flooding, and increase the effectiveness of flood protection, above and beyond those

minimum actions required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Those steps fall under one or more of the following categories: Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction, Flood Preparedness or Public Awareness.

Flood insurance premium reductions resulting from "above and beyond the minimum" initiatives run in five percent increments, from five percent to 45 percent. Class ratings range from Nine to One. The higher the flood protection activity, the lower the Class rating.

Fourteen Pacific Northwest CRS communities earned additional flood insurance premium reductions of five or ten percent for their residents:

- Moscow, Mountain Home, Pocatello, Sun Valley, and Bannock and Blaine Counties (Class Eight), and Ada and Valley Counties (Class Seven) in Idaho;
- Cannon Beach (Class Seven), and Roseburg (Class Eight) in Oregon; and
- Centralia, Renton and Lewis County (Class Seven) and Everson (Class Eight) in Washington.

Nearly 4.2 million flood insurance policies are currently in force in more than 19,000 communities across America that participate in the NFIP. Nationally, over 900 communities now benefit from membership in the Community Rating System.



A Fair to Remember

On a bright and breezy day, they came from everywhere to celebrate the harvest and show off their goods. Elephant ears, Krusty Pups, and famous Scones were to be had by all. Mother Nature was kind to all participants during both the Southeast and Western Washington State Fairs. But as we all know, it's not nice to fool



Walla Walla Project Impact partner Washington State Penitentiary safety officer Mark Graham shares successes with passers-by.

Mother Nature. So, the Walla Walla Project Impact and FEMA team set up booths at the fairs to spread the message about Mother Nature's fury.

The SE Washington Fair sported a new booth called Project Impact to raise public awareness and recruit volunteers and partners. To our surprise, many individuals were aware of Project Impact and either signed up to receive the Walla Walla PI newsletter, or join a Hazards workgroup. Most individuals were not fooled by the balmy weather and expressed interest in mitigating their future losses to natural hazards. Many thanks go to the Project Impact team for their hard work and long hours in making this first Project Impact fair booth a

successful one.

As usual the Western Washington Fair, better known as the Puyallup Fair, turned out incredible numbers of fairgoers. Once again, the FEMA booth, along with the U.S. Corps of Engineers Flood Model, was a focal attraction in the Northwest Outdoors Building. Many fairgoers were interested in Y2K, but the biggest interest was in earthquake mitigation. Many credit the coverage on Seattle's Project Impact Retrofit program for heightening their awareness. Thanks to all the staff who contributed to this year's Puyallup Fair success. This was definitely a fair to remember.

For more information contact Mark Eberlein, (425) 487-4735.

Y2K Information Collection & Reporting System

FEMA is the lead agency for the President's Council on Y2K Conversion Emergency Services Sector (ESS) working group, and plays a key role in the White House's Information Coordination Center (ICC) Status Reporting System. An internet-based system will gather information on critical sectors (Energy, Communications, Transportation, etc.) by state and region for monitoring by headquarters. The system will speed detection of major incidents and allow for improved response if substantial disruptions occur.

The Y2K reporting process also includes provisions for several levels of backup communications, including High Frequency radios and satellite telephones. The ICC conducted an internal exercise with selected states in September and an involved internal exercise mid-October. FEMA Regional offices will conduct a workshop in November and a full-scale "stressed" reporting exercise the first week of December.

Region 10 is actively involved in preparing for Y2K, working with our state emergency management partners in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Duty personnel regularly are on duty at the Regional Office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and for the rollover period all FEMA Regions will be operating at a

higher level of readiness at their respective Regional Operations Centers. FEMA representatives will also be at each state Emergency Operations Center to assist with reporting developments during the New Year's period.

Regional staff continue outreach and educational efforts for local governments, businesses, and residents throughout the region. In Washington State, FEMA staff presented at all nine state-sponsored regional Y2K workshops across the state, and continue to serve on the Governor's Washington State Year 2000 Advisory Board. In Alaska, FEMA joined the Alaska Department of Emergency Services (ADES) and other federal agencies in community discussions on Y2K and in exercises with state and local officials to prepare for the rollover period.

From all available information, Y2K will cause only inconveniences -not emergencies- if upsets do occur. However, FEMA and other federal agencies are working to ensure an effective response in the event trouble does occur. The President's Council on Year 2000 shares information about business sector activities with the public through its free information line (1-888-USA-4-Y2K), postings on its web site (www.y2k.gov), and quarterly assessment reports.

Project Impact PSAs for Radio and Television Now Available

For communities wanting to promote their involvement in Project Impact, a series of twelve 30-second radio and one 30-second television public service announcement are available. Please email kim.fuller@fema.gov for your copies of the PSAs. Scripts are also available. Please specify if you want radio or TV. Television is in beta only.

Do you Have Building Science Questions?

FEMA's Mitigation Directorate has recently launched an e-mail address that people can send building science related questions. Project Impact communities are invited to take advantage of this new resource for information.

The e-mail address is Building.Science@fema.gov.

Oregon Chooses 2000 Community by Committee

During the FY 2000 Project Impact selection process Oregon utilized the Governor's Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (GIHMT) as the review and selection committee for the new FY 2000 community in the state. The committee evaluated six proposals, including the use of HAZUS for quantitative assessment.

The GIHMT was convened in 1997 originally to focus on immediate hazard mitigation needs associated with disasters. According to a recent assessment of the implementation of the team's 10 goals, "The GIHMT's focus is to understand losses arising from natural and technological hazards, and coordinate recommended strategies to mitigate loss of life, property and natural resources."

Nine state agencies/offices are represented on the GIHMT and all participated in the process. These organizations are the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Building Codes Division, Economic and Community Development Dept., Governor's Natural Resources Office, Department of Geology and Mineral

Industries, Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Quality, State Fire Marshal and office of Oregon Emergency Management. Oregon requested all interested communities address the National Emergency Management Association generated Project Impact criteria in their proposal. The proposals were reviewed independently by all participants who then voted for the two proposals which they felt were the best candidates.

Following the initial review of all proposals, each committee member discussed their opinions. Positive and negative aspects of all communities were evaluated.

"This selection process provides a very objective approach based upon multiple disciplines to review community's proposals for Project Impact. Input from each member provides unique perspectives and great opportunities to learn and coordinate efforts towards our goal of becoming a 'Disaster Resistant State'," said Ken Murphy of OEM. POC Ken Murphy OEM 503-378-2911 x251

Kamiah Celebrates Community Commitment

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depicted the Lawyer's Creek floodplain and some of the partners along the creek. The Nez Perce Indian Tribe Drummers provided a musical performance.

The highlight of the Signing Ceremony was the presentation of river rocks engraved with "Project Impact Kamiah" to prominent partners. Ida-Stone Memorials donated the engraved rocks. The partnership presented the engraved rocks to recognize the importance of community participation towards the success of Project Impact. For information call Mayor Bob Olive, (208) 935-7725.

Region 10 Websites Win Respect!

Walla Walla Washington
<http://home.bmi.net/impact/>

Seattle, Washington
<http://www.wawebsites.com/picomps/>

Pierce and King Counties, Washington
<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/abtus/ourorg/dem/projimpact>

Benton County, Washington
<http://osu.orst.edu/groups/bcenc>

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

